

John Walsh, Judiciary Committee Chair
House of Representatives
251 Capitol Building
Lansing, MI

Honorable Chairman Walsh:

This letter is written to express my solemn concerns along with the concerns of my family, friends and colleagues regarding the implementation of the Adam Walsh Act Legislation SB188 and SB 189. This important legislation will need to judicially balance the safety of Michigan citizens with a reasoned fair and just punishment of the many registered compliant citizens on the SOL.

It is critical that Michigan legislators realize the additional punitive impact of the Adam Walsh Act legislation; in particular, the legislation regarding the public listing of a registrant's employment. I write to you today, to ask for you and the House Judicial Committee Members to keep employer information OFF of the public record.

Making employment a matter of Michigan public record will turn an already harsh conviction (twenty-five years on SOL) to a crushing cruel and unusual penalty for juvenile offenders and for non-violent misdemeanor CSC4 tier 1 registered and compliant citizens. This kind of public record penalty is an emotionally charged legislation and amounts to an additional layer of punishment.

The addition of 'public employment' to Michigan law will cause serious financial hardships on compliant registrants who pose no threat to their community. In addition, their extended families will also be punished – families who are already strained by the year after year financial support of someone who once had extremely poor judgment and made a one-time non-violent consensual mistake. There is no reasonable need to add public display of employment to tier 1 CSC4 misdemeanor and juvenile offenders when the registrant is compliant and has full family support to restore their lives with employment. Both the State of Florida and the State of South Dakota have been found substantially compliant and they do not list employer information publicly. The State of Texas did not adopt this legislation; among the reasons was the high cost of implementing the Adam Walsh Act and their current State Budget deficits.

Judicially reasoned fair legislation helps rebuild families and keep communities safe. It is with due respect that I ask the members of our House Judiciary Committee to be fair and just when adapting the Adam Walsh Act into Michigan Law. Keep employer information OFF the public registry.

Very truly yours,
Audrey C. B.
Canton, MI